

The Caledonian.

BY C. M. STONE & CO.

St. Johnsbury, Mar. 20, 1858.

It will be the aim of the conductors of THE CALEDONIAN to give the News in an attractive form and to make an interesting and elevating family journal; to discuss public affairs with independence and vivacity; and to reflect the common New England sentiment against the great wrong of Slavery.

CORRESPONDENCE.—We solicit voluntary communications from all parts of the country upon matters of interest. If the News, in particular, will be thankfully received.

Our Village Schools.

We publish below the report of our village School Committee, made through their Secretary, Rev. Wm. W. Thayer, at the annual School meeting on Friday evening of the 12th instant. We hope it is unnecessary to suggest that this report, with the accompanying statistics, deserves a careful consideration from all the inhabitants of the district. The attendance at the annual meeting was respectable, in number; but by no means what it should have been, considering merely the pecuniary interests involved in the support of these schools. The Auditor's report showed an expenditure for their support and for incidentals, during the year just closed, of about three thousand dollars. The tax-payers of the district, we presume, are satisfied that the money has been all properly expended and applied for the proper object, and that it has yielded a fair equivalent in the intellectual growth and training of the children and youth for whose improvement it was intended. But this is no sufficient excuse for staying away from the School meeting. Our schools are by no means perfect, or as good as they may be made, and it is the duty of every citizen to lend his influence wherever it can be made available, to increase their efficiency and make them, more than they have been hitherto, model institutions for the cultivation of the intellect, manners and morals of the entire youth of the community. Now the School meeting is just the place where this influence is needed; where it may be made available in various ways which we need not stop here to specify, for the furtherance of this object; and we insist upon it that every good citizen of enlarged views and just conceptions of his social obligations will make it a point of duty to be there.

It will be noticed that the report represents the condition of the Schools only for the winter term of twelve weeks now just closed; but notwithstanding the unfavorable season of the year for securing constant attendance of scholars, it will not fail to strike every reader of its statistics that there has been a very large percentage of absenteeism from some causes; and that the percentage has been largest in the High School just where it ought to have been least. It deserves inquiry, on the part of the Prudential Committee, whether some means may not be devised for the diminution of this evil. In the annual report of the Principal of the High School of Philadelphia for 1856, now before us—the number of scholars six hundred—the absence for six months embracing the winter season, is stated to have been only two and one-half per cent. The average distance which these scholars had to go to reach the school is estimated to be more than a mile and a half. In referring to this subject the Principal says: "I take great pleasure in calling attention to this matter since according to my observation and experience, there is no more certain test of the condition of a School than the state of its attendance." So small a percentage of absence certainly should not be expected in our High School during its first years, but there ought to be a rapid approximation toward it and we doubt not there will be, if the right stimulus can be found and put into application.

It should not be forgotten by those who are already apprised of the fact—and those who are not, should be forthwith notified of it—that the annual School meeting of the 12th instant, was adjourned to Friday, March 20th, 7 o'clock P. M., when the report of the Committee found below, and other matters will be in order for consideration. We hope the legal voters of the district, one and all will be there to advise with the several Committees already entrusted with the annual care of our schools, upon the necessary means for their improvement.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR DISTRICT NO. 1.

Your committee appointed for 1857, beg leave to report through an organized Board as a medium common to them all. Upon engaging in their duties for the year, it seemed important that there should be such a mutual understanding and co-operation of the committees as might secure the benefit of harmonious action, the stimulus of a systematic plan, and the greatest weight of influence which might be brought to bear in favor of the general design of their appointment by the district. Such result your committee believed would best be secured by an organization which is reported as follows:—

November 15th, 1857.—Pursuant to an appointment made at a preliminary meeting of the Prudential, Examining and Visiting Committees, of School District No. 1, St. Johnsbury, met for the purpose of organizing an Educational Board to consult and act for the interest of education in the district, intending thus to secure an increased efficiency to our influence in the general concerns of education without interfering with the proper functions of the several committees embodied in the organization. To effect the proposed organization, adopted the following Constitution:—

ART. 1. This organization shall be called the School Board of District No. 1, St. Johnsbury.

ART. 2. The officers of the Board shall be a Chairman, whose duty it shall be to preside at all meetings of the Board and at the public examinations of the schools; and a Secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep the records of the Board, and call its meetings, under the direction of the Chairman.

ART. 3. Each school in the district shall be assigned by the Chairman and Secretary to a committee of two or more, one of whom shall reside in the school-section assigned, whose duty it shall be to examine the school near the commencement of each term and visit it as

often as once a month, and annually report to the Board the condition and progress of the school, information respecting books, discipline, and such changes as the committee may deem desirable in the school assigned it, which report shall be at the disposal of the Board in making an annual report to the school district.

ART. 4. There shall be an annual public examination of each school at or near the close of the term, held by the Board or under its direction.

ART. 5. The several original committees comprising the Board shall be recognized subsequently to the organization as still having the supervision of those matters which previously were appropriated to it, and for which it is to retain its distinct responsibility to the school district.

After considering and adopting the Constitution, elected the officers as follows:—L. Fairbanks, Chairman, and W. W. Thayer, Secretary.

The organization was completed at a late period in the school-year that the assignment of the schools to the special committees was waived in favor of the Board's proceeding, as a whole, to attend the public examination of each of the schools at the close of the winter term.

At these examinations there has been a pretty full attendance of the Board, and at some of them a few parents, with other citizens, were present. These examinations have generally, as to scholarship and deportment, afforded gratifying indications of faithfulness in the teachers, and improvement of the schools. In one instance it was deemed a duty to express dissatisfaction with the deportment of the school while passing the examination, the Board being aware however at the time of peculiar circumstances, tending considerably to mitigate the cause for censure. And it should be further stated, that on that occasion there was a fair exhibition of scholarship and creditable indications of advancement. Proofs also have abounded sufficiently confirming and illustrating the advantage of the graded school system, and suggesting high gratification that this district has so far adopted it. While in these examinations it appeared exceedingly desirable that the citizens more generally could have been present to witness the developments of a system which is sure to acquire a hold upon public confidence more and more strong in proportion as its workings come under interested observation.

It has further appeared desirable, increasingly so, that the district should advance in this system, and approximate nearer to perfecting the gradation of its schools,—that it should at least immediately establish one intermediate school, which might be easily arranged for with but trifling if any increase of present expense, and which would avail for the instruction of a large number of pupils who must necessarily be impeded by the presence and training of the youngest in the primary school, and yet are not qualified to enter the High School without both detriment to those who are properly members there, and failure to derive for themselves the improvement which would be more sure in a school where the instruction was appropriate alone to their degree of advancement.

One of the primary schools on the Plain is partly and almost unavoidably assuming this character and position, and yet it cannot do so wholly, and for the benefit of the whole district without some action of the district which shall fix a standard of scholarship as a requisite to admission, and authorize all pupils who attain that standard to come into from the primary schools in all parts of the district.

These examinations have also suggested the importance of confining instruction in the primary schools to those studies which are strictly elementary, not only as being best adapted to the state of minds, there assembled, for present improvement, but also as preparatory to a seasonable advancement to the higher schools. It is found that if higher branches are taught in the primary schools it is at a disadvantage, and also tends to the disappointment of the pupils who, having been so taught, attempt admission to a higher school, and find that they are too deficient in elementary knowledge, and are thrown back of necessity, when their age and mental power, if it had been rightly occupied, would indicate in favor of their being advanced. It is a matter of no trifling importance

to pupils in such a predicament that they have been led off or allowed off, the right course leading to well deserved elevation and well balanced mental discipline.

It will be seen in the statistics of this report that there are comparatively few deviations of this kind. Fifteen are found in three of the schools, of whom seven are in History, four in Natural History and four in Grammar. And it is submitted whether these fifteen, allowing them to be good scholars, have not to the detriment of the schools, been acquiring knowledge at a disadvantage, as compared with its acquisition when and where it is appropriately taught, and at the same time been neglecting a certain amount of elementary knowledge in which they cannot afford to be deficient when they shall seek advancement to a higher school.

Upon the subject of terms and time of vacations in the primary schools, the Board would suggest to the consideration of the district the advantage of such an arrangement as would break up the long summer term, and not confine the children during the hot season, but have them in school during September and October, the very best season for learning and for health in school.

The statistics of the schools for the winter term of twelve weeks are as follows:—

School	Teachers	Attendance	Books	Discipline	Remarks
Primary School No. 1	Miss M. Thayer	120	100	Good	
Primary School No. 2	Miss M. Thayer	110	90	Good	
Primary School No. 3	Miss M. Thayer	100	80	Good	
Primary School No. 4	Miss M. Thayer	90	70	Good	
Primary School No. 5	Miss M. Thayer	80	60	Good	
Primary School No. 6	Miss M. Thayer	70	50	Good	
Primary School No. 7	Miss M. Thayer	60	40	Good	
Primary School No. 8	Miss M. Thayer	50	30	Good	
Primary School No. 9	Miss M. Thayer	40	20	Good	
Primary School No. 10	Miss M. Thayer	30	10	Good	
Primary School No. 11	Miss M. Thayer	20	10	Good	
Primary School No. 12	Miss M. Thayer	10	5	Good	
Primary School No. 13	Miss M. Thayer	5	2	Good	
Primary School No. 14	Miss M. Thayer	2	1	Good	
Primary School No. 15	Miss M. Thayer	1	0	Good	
Primary School No. 16	Miss M. Thayer	0	0	Good	
Primary School No. 17	Miss M. Thayer	0	0	Good	
Primary School No. 18	Miss M. Thayer	0	0	Good	
Primary School No. 19	Miss M. Thayer	0	0	Good	
Primary School No. 20	Miss M. Thayer	0	0	Good	

The whole number reported by the Dis-

trict Clerk between the ages of 4 and 18 is 444, and it will be seen from the above table that the whole attendance at all the schools is 341, leaving 103 not connected with these schools.

It also appears that the average attendance is less than the whole by 67, showing so large a percentage of absenteeism as invites consideration and effort for remedy.

All which is respectfully submitted,
WM. W. THAYER, Secretary.

News of the Week.

A shocking accident occurred to a young lady at Boston on Saturday afternoon. Miss Sarah Barnard, only daughter of Geo. M. Barnard, Esq., of Beacon street, caught her dress on fire and was burned to death before assistance could be rendered. Miss Barnard was a beautiful and accomplished young lady of 21 years, and the event cast a deep gloom over a large circle of friends. She was dressed at the time for the Fair at Music Hall where she was to meet her father and mother. At the time of the catastrophe, she was waiting the company of a young man to escort her to the Fair, who arrived five minutes after her death.

A singular tragedy was enacted at the Illinois penitentiary last week. A convict named Hall knocked down the man on guard and dragged him into a cell, and fastened the door, then drawing a knife from his bosom and placing Hall between himself and the door, threatened his life if he was not released. The guard was immediately attracted to the spot, but could not shoot the convict, for fear of hitting the imprisoned guard. After twenty-four hours of unrelenting resort was had to the convict. When the food was given to the convict the guard all appeared to leave, and when he opened his cell door to take in his rations, a crow-bar was instantly inserted in the opening, and the imprisoned guard was called upon to fight for his life. He accordingly sprang to the opening of the door and at length dragged himself through, but before he was established by the convict nine times, seven times in the back and twice on the arms. When the poor victim was dragged out, the convict barred the door again and refused to yield. He was then given a few minutes for reflection, and the rebel was, after much dodging and effort to get out of the reach of the fire, shot by the Warden. The ball struck his skull, just below the left ear and glancing around lodged under the skull. He fell instantly and was dragged out of the cell, and was thought to be dead, but soon recovered and talked as sensible as any man could under the circumstances. It was thought, however, that neither the guard nor convict could survive their wounds.

Henry R. Brotherson, head book-keeper of the Union Bank New York, has become a defaulter in the sum of \$100,000. The money was lost gaming.

Rev. Nathaniel W. Taylor, D.D., Professor of Didactic Theology in Yale College, and author of a system of theology, expired at his residence on Wednesday of last week, in the 72d year of his age. It was to him that President Buchanan recently addressed his celebrated answer to the New Haven memorialists.

It is rumored that Gen. Cass intends soon to resign his office in the Cabinet. The Detroit Advertiser says that Mr. Cass does not approve of the policy of the President in removing from office solely on account of not endorsing his Lecompton policy.

A Constantinople letter of January 30th, says:—"We have had this far the severest winter that has ever occurred in Constantinople within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The snow is more than two feet deep on a level, and has been almost continually falling for thirty days."

They had an all-night session in the U. S. Senate Monday, at which time the majority tried their best to crowd the minority on the Kansas question, but without avail. The border ruffian Green called Cameron of Pa. a liar, and threatened him in a bullying manner. Cameron told him he was able to take care of himself. We give an account of this protracted session in another column.

By an arrival from Europe, we learn that the trial of the Directors of the Royal British Bank, terminated on the 27th, with a verdict of guilty. Three of them, Cameron, Brown and Edsall, were sentenced on first-class misdemeanors, to twelve months imprisonment, without hard labor; Kennedy to nine months; Oliver to six, and McLeod to three months, while Stapleton was discharged on payment of a nominal fine of one shilling.

The government dispatch says the enemy were fortifying Lucknow with great strength. There are about 100,000 of them in arms. They are said to be losing heart, and are anxious to negotiate. A dispatch to the India Company says, advices of the 22d of January state that General Outram had been again assaulted, and an attack by the whole rebel force in Lucknow was daily expected.

They have a live Turk in New York—a regular Mohammed Pasha. The stupidity and vulgarity of New York Aldermen was never more conspicuously displayed. The poor man, who came here to buy a ship, has had no peace of mind or body since he landed. He has been bored and spited, without mercy. He has now gone to Washington.

ABUNDANCE OF MONEY.—The condition of the New York banks shows the extreme difficulty at the present time of employing money profitably. These banks hold about thirty-four and a half millions of dollars, in specie, and they were able to increase their loans last week only \$271,000. This fact proves that there is yet but a moderate revival of business, and that there is not safe employment for the large accumulations of capital in the country.

A NOTABLE CHANGE.—Perhaps few newspapers attack President Buchanan's administration just now with such unmeasured virulence as the "Freeman's Journal," the well known Catholic paper published in New York, which was one of the most conspicuous and efficient advocates of his election. The Lecompton was the last straw that broke the camel's back.

New Hampshire Election.

Returns from 213 towns foot up as follows:—Halls (Am. Rep.) 35,222; Carr (Dem.) 30,350. Halls' majority 5172. There are 16 towns to be heard from, which last year gave a Democratic majority of 350. So far as heard from 195 Republicans and 103 Democrats have been elected to the House of Representatives. In towns to hear from, if same as last year, Republicans, 4; Democrats 15. Republican majority, 81. Probably all the Republican candidates for Congress are chosen, viz., Messrs. William H. Bailey, of Concord; Thomas L. Whitton, of Wolfboro; John N. Worcester, of Hollis; Allen Giffin, of Marlow, and Aurin M. Chase, of Whitefield. The vote for Councillor in District No. 3, (Grafton and Coos) is very close. Taking the Governor's vote of this year, and last year's vote in towns not heard from, and they give for Chase, Republican, 5901; for Rogers, Democrat, 5902. The Republicans have certainly chosen 8, probably 9 of the 12 Senators, viz., in Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11. In Senatorial District No. 1, taking the Governor's vote of this year and last year's vote in towns not heard from, Dem., Republican, would have 1809 votes and his competitor 1823.

The Religious Awakening.

"Watchman tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are."

The wave of religious feeling now sweeping over a large part of our land, is not confined now to a few central points, but is making itself felt in almost every community; and we can scarcely take up a newspaper, secular or religious,—but we find short, or even extended, accounts of this work of grace. In presenting this subject so frequently and at such length, the Press believes that, not only the religious part of the community, but the public generally are interested, and that they are entitled to information on matters which it deems of vital importance. Well has a secular contemporary said, that without noise, without exaggerated pretensions or display, this work has progressed during the last two months, till it has reached, or is approaching, its culminating point; and the astonished world, startled from its pursuit of pleasure or of gain, stops awhile to gaze and wonder where or when the phenomena will cease.

The religious feeling in New York loses none of its interest. The business men's noon prayer meetings at the churches are kept up with increased devotion and with good results. Noon prayer meetings are being held also in many of the stores and larger printing offices by the workmen, who spend this hour each day in devotional exercises. In Boston, too, a religious feeling pervades all classes, and the morning and noon prayer meetings are fully attended.

We find in our State exchanges accounts of the revivals in nearly all our counties. The three following items we find in the Chronicle:

NORWICH.—We learn that the revival in Norwich, mentioned in our last, is general, and already embraces a very large number of hopeful converts. There has been, for many months, an increasing degree of seriousness and attention to religious truth, which the pastor has met by doctrinal preaching, and in the common methods of pastoral duty.

WEST FAIRLEE.—Rev. Solon Martin, under date of March 8, says:—"As you are giving in the Chronicle, from time to time, notices of revivals of religion, which are cheering to the hearts of all who love Zion, I write to say that there is at the present time an interesting revival in the Congregational Society in West Fairlee. The work, which is characterized by great earnestness and depth of feeling, has been in progress for several months, under the ordinary means of grace. The church, many of them are added to the church, many of them are added to the church, many of them are added to the church."

MOOREVILLE.—Rev. S. Robinson, March 5, writes:—"We are now in the midst of a pleasant revival of religion. Some 15 or 18 are already indulging hope of having passed from death unto life, and others are asking the great question 'What must I do to be saved?' Brethren, pray for us."

RETIRED.—The religious revival in Rutland still continues. Meetings are held every evening of the week at the Baptist and Methodist houses of worship, and at the Chapel of the Congregational Society. All of these are well attended, and the religious feeling seems to be steadily increasing among them all. Altogether, there have been, as we are informed, over one hundred conversions in our village since the revival began.—Herald.

MIDDLEBURY.—There is quite a revival in this place. It commenced with Christians, and there were now one hundred and fifty rejoicing converts, and that too in a small place. The work was extending into the neighboring towns.

Washington Matters.

John W. Forney, Esq., writes a striking letter from Washington, March 12, to the Philadelphia Press. After referring to the happy auspices, which shone around Mr. Buchanan's opening administration one year ago, Mr. Forney proceeds:

"What is the aspect now? One wide reign of terror. A test is erected before us, like some horrid instrument of torture, upon which Democrats are tried and executed for their opinions. The work of deception has ceased against life-time foes, and is now waged upon old and cherished friends. Men are removed and calumniated, not for being opposed to Democratic principles, but for being too much in favor of them. The humiliated clerk, with his little family, who struggles along on his thousand dollars a year, must hide his sentiments or leave his place. For the bold and upright Democrat who dares to cast about there is short shrift. If he has an office, he must be ready for the ominous card of dismissal on the instant. If he is an independent citizen, he is excluded from the Departments and from the White House like a common leper. An army of spies are on the alert, hunting for victims. Who to the unguarded gentlemen who, in the presence of office, are eager eyes-droppers, may let fall a free opinion. It is at once caught up and carried, with no lack of exaggeration, to the ear of power. If there is on this round globe a race more despised in civilized society than any other, is the race of informers. The noblest invective of the noblest of Irish orators has made them immortally infamous. These men are the most dangerous of their kind in Washington. I could name several of them from our own State, but I forbear for the honor of Pennsylvania. They glory in their shameless trade. Broken in fortune, reckless of their own fame, laughing at conscience, they swear they are not for themselves, they swear they are anxious to earn their guilty wages."

Pretty plain talk that, for the man who saved Pennsylvania (and thereby saved the Presidential chair) for the same James Buchanan.

On Monday evening, the Hutchinson family gave a concert at Sacaparra, Maine. On returning to Portland at the close of the performance, they were waylaid, and two or three attempts made to rob them. The marauders were not successful in their efforts for plunder.

Letter from Iowa.

WATERLOO, BLACK HAWK CO.,
March 8, 1858.

FRIEND CALEDONIAN.—As many of your readers are more or less interested in Iowa matters, I have thought that a few jottings from one on the ground might not be unacceptable; and in the first place the weather this winter seems to be the most prominent subject that presents itself. For Iowa, like the other Western States, has suffered greatly in her reputation the two winters previous to this. But this winter has been all that any one could reasonably have asked, as we probably have not yet had over four inches of snow, and probably not over two or three weeks of that, with a very small amount of wind. The mercury, since November, has not fallen below zero but seven times, and the lowest was 16 below. As to the money panic, we pity any who are any worse off than we. Though the medicine is very hard to take, and its effects very prostrating, yet, the patient will come out of the sickness sounder and more vigorous than before. In fact it was just the thing needed, for now we would say to our Eastern friends that they can buy real estate in town or country, at least 25 per cent. cheaper than last year. But you may rely upon it, this will not always last, but after this year property will begin again to come up. One of the benefits of this panic is in driving out from our villages thousands of six-by-eight speculators who have been trying to live by their wits, but who now are obliged to resort to the tilling of the soil.

My opinion is that at present Iowa presents more advantages to the emigrant than any other point; though last year we were very willing, for certain reasons, to see our sister Kansas receiving the most attention. Minnesota is too far north, and the best of Wisconsin is taken up. Our Vermont friends have nothing to fear from this climate; in fact it is the very latitude that will secure the very best portion of emigrants, being about on a line with New York and New England. The most prominent objections that present themselves to Iowa, are want of timber and distance from market. But the speedy construction of our railroads and the planting of groves will remove both of these. It is said that freight from Dubuque to New York by the Mississippi River, is not more than from one to two dollars per hundred. There is still a large amount of government land in the State subject to entry at one dollar and a quarter per acre. Improved farms in the vicinity of towns from ten to twenty dollars. Good raw prairie, perhaps half that. Now to any one who thinks of coming west, we would say, don't think to come out here as thousands have, to be disappointed by looking for what used to be said of Ohio; that pigs were found wild, ready cooked, with knives and forks sticking in their backs! Unless a man has plenty of cash he may expect to find hardships and many disagreeable things, but in the end he may secure a farm that he can feel is worth the name of a farm.

I ought not to omit mentioning the fact that pulmonary difficulties are almost unknown here, unless brought here. We are confident that, unless in some of the worst localities, it is quite as healthy here as in Vermont; and what may seem rather strange, the fact seems to be that persons of middle age and older, are more free of health than younger ones.

Yours truly,
O. W. E.

An All-night Session in the Senate.

They had an exciting time in the U. S. Senate on Monday night. The Boston Journal thus speaks of it:

"It was not the first time that a dominating majority had attempted to override the rights of the minority on that floor, but it was, perhaps, the first time that the insolence met with the fate it deserved. Mr. Green, from the State already irreparably injured by its Border Ruffian progress, seems to have been put forward as the ringleader of the majority—or, as he avowed, 'the agent of the committee.' In the most impudent manner he announced that the debate on the Kansas question must come to a close. The majority would 'take the responsibility of the coercion.' Mr. Toombs came to his aid and added insult to Green's proposed injury, by talking about crushing out this faction! Mr. Benjamin chimed in with some half-delirious remarks about a present revolution; and Stillé announced the members with rulings from the chair, which well deserve the admirably sarcastic compliments of Mr. Hamlin. With the Senate thus suddenly sprung upon them, the Republican Senators behaved with the utmost coolness and resolution. Mr. Clark of New Hampshire, though wearied and provokingly interrupted, continued on to the end of a speech, which, judging from the telegraphic abstract, must have been one of the very finest of the session."

In the skirmishes of debate and colloquy which followed, the Republicans were as firm as they were right. They asked only for time for consultation, promising to make the best arrangement consistent with the rights of members." Mr. Green, however, would not grant even this poor courtesy, unless a promise were made that some day this session should be fixed upon for the final vote. The dictation was instantly spurned, and the contest of physical endurance cheerfully entered upon. Then it was that Green tried his native Border Ruffian upon Senator Cameron, but with an ill success which shows that the article suffers from depreciation when transferred from the frontier to the Capitol. Then it was that Mr. Bigler lifted up his voice and spoke "not for the senate, but for his constituents." Then followed vote on vote for adjournment with substantially the same result. At length a little gleam of leniency appeared on the faces of the majority, in the remark of Mr. Iverson of Georgia, that the majority had not acted magnanimously in refusing the opportunity for consultation asked by the minority. Still the Missouri manager remained obstinate, with a qualification. Two more votes were taken without effect, until at half-past 6 o'clock in the morning Mr. Wilson moved an adjournment, which was carried by acclamation.

Thus the Administration was braved, resisted, tired out, beaten and humiliated. All honor to the noble men who achieved the triumph. They have gained a week's free discussion in the United States Senate on the greatest question of the day; they have shown what a resolute minority can do when they take their stand for a sacred principle. They are the men for their place, and the people will not forget them.

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